

VZCZCXRO3994  
PP RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHNEH  
DE RUEHNE #0779/01 1101127  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 201127Z APR 09  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6245  
INFO RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC  
RHHJJPI/PACOM IDHS HONOLULU HI  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 1695  
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 4594  
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA 3808  
RUEHNEH/AMCONSUL HYDERABAD 0482  
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 2090  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 5979  
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 2539  
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI 9445  
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI 3633  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 6246  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 7894  
RHOVVKG/COMSEVENTHFLT  
RHMFISS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 NEW DELHI 000779

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NP, AC, PM

STATE FOR INR/MR

STATE FOR SCA/INS, PM/CBM, PM/PRO

STATE FOR SCA/PPD, PA/RRU

STATE FOR AID/APRE-A

USDOC FOR 4530/IEP/ANESA/OSA FOR BILL MURPHY

E.O. 12958:N/A

TAGS: [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [IN](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: TERRORISM/PAKISTAN, US  
FEDERALISM, NUCLEAR ISSUES, GLOBAL ECONOMY, CUBA/SUMMIT  
OF THE AMERICAS; NEW DELHI.

This countrywide cable reports on relevant media  
reaction/opinion from India's large non-English press.  
The Mission reports on English-language media via email  
through the daily "Early Edition" summary.

-----  
TERRORISM/PAKISTAN  
-----

11. "PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT'S SURRENDER," commentary in April  
19 right-of-center Hindi daily DAINIK JAGRAN by strategic  
affairs expert K. Subrahmanyam: "By giving in to the  
demand to enforce Islamic law in Swat Valley and other  
tribal areas, Pakistani President Asif Zardari has  
indicated that Islamabad is not willing to take on the  
Taliban and Al-Qaeda. For the Obama Administration to  
resolve its Afghanistan problem, the biggest challenge is  
to deal with Pakistan at a time when the Taliban are  
poised to capture the country. If the U.S. fails to  
control the situation, it will be like a confirmation for  
the Pakistani army that the U.S. is not committed in the  
region and will soon leave Afghanistan. Since the  
Taliban in Pakistan are gaining in strength, the risk of  
terrorist attacks on the West is also on the increase.  
This is a test for the Western countries, and their  
looking away from the problem will let the Taliban gobble  
up Pakistan."

12. "INCREASING PRESSURE ON PAKISTAN," op-ed article in  
April 18 right-of-center Hindi daily DAINIK JAGRAN by

Member of Parliament Rajeev Shukla: "Eventually, the Pakistani government had to bow to the Taliban and implement Sharia law in Waziristan, Swat and FATA. Through Sharia law, the Taliban have established their rule in the tribal areas, and sooner or later will reach Islamabad. The same Red Mosque that Musharraf wrested from the Taliban under U.S. pressure will again turn into a Taliban base. That will make it easy to take over Islamabad. The Taliban's entry means Al-Qaida's entry. The Islamic hardliners have no fear of the army or police. Under these circumstances, the U.S. will have to make a special initiative. Obama's special envoy Richard Holbrooke has understood the seriousness of the situation. Now the U.S. is left with no option but to rapidly increase direct attacks before the Taliban takes over Pakistan."

13. "PAKISTAN LOSES WORLD CUP CO-HOST TAG" editorial in the April 20 centrist Gujarati daily GUJARATMITRA. "Pakistan's notoriety as the epicenter of global terrorism has again taken a toll. This time, it is the cricket world cup series (2011). Earlier scheduled to be co-hosted by India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the International Cricket Council has struck off Pakistan's name from the organizers' list for security reasons. The terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan team in Pakistan last month forced other cricket playing nations to rethink their options considering Pakistan's dismal record in containing such attacks... while this is a sad day for cricket fans in Pakistan, Pakistan has itself gained the

NEW DELHI 00000779 002 OF 003

reputation of a nation aiding and abetting terrorism."

14. "PAKISTAN IN THE CLUTCHES OF TALIBAN" op-ed article by columnist Manisha Tikekar in the April 19 centrist Marathi daily LOKMAT: "The Taliban is now the established enemy of the whole world, whatever Pakistan wants us to believe. The unfolding scenario in Pakistan is so fast-changing and scary that the Pakistani administration is itself unable to keep pace with the Taliban onslaught. At one point, Pakistan was aiming to create a 'strategic depth' against India in Afghanistan. The Taliban was created and strengthened as part of that strategic design. Now, of course, things have changed. The Taliban is becoming increasingly unmanageable for the Pakistani administration..."

-----  
US FEDERALISM  
-----

15. "UPRISING IN THE U.S.," editorial in the April 18 right-of-center Hindi daily AMAR UJALA: "The way U.S. President Barack Obama has imposed taxes and asked all the states to contribute to the stimulus package has incited anger among the middle class. Texas, the southwestern U.S. state, is leading an anti-Obama wave. It is not just a question of Obama's stability, but one that has to do with U.S. federalism... the Texas fire could pose a serious danger to U.S. federalism. Texas is a Republican base, but its secessionist roots and strong economy, as compared with other states, are the two main factors behind the revolutionary attitude of Texans... what is the guarantee that these secessionist flames will not reach other states? Can Obama handle it?"

-----  
NUCLEAR ISSUES  
-----

6. "NOT TIME YET FOR DISARMAMENT," analysis in the April 18 centrist, pro-Congress party Hindi daily DAINIK HINDUSTAN by Harsh V. Pant: "President Barack Obama is again in the news over disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation issues. Since India has always raised the nuclear

disarmament issue, it should welcome Obama's declaration in Prague. On India's western border, a failed nuclear state [Pakistan] may come into existence. Thus, U.S.-India cooperation is a must to prevent nuclear weapons falling into terrorists' hands... disarmament rules and regulations are totally ineffective because of the instability in world politics. Anyway, the question arises -- is complete disarmament necessary? There is stability after the cold war because of large stocks of nuclear weapons. Being a nuclear state, India should welcome Obama's proposals. But at present it should not waste time on a hypothetical ideology of a nuclear-free world. India should follow the nonproliferation policy and firmly say it will not sign the CTBT and FMCT in their present form. Nuclear disarmament is good for India, but its time has not yet come."

NEW DELHI 00000779 003 OF 003

-----  
GLOBAL ECONOMY  
-----

¶7. "EVEN CHINA NOW" editorial in the April 20 right-of-center Gujarati daily GUJARAT SAMACHAR. "Even China now has been gripped by the impact of global recession. The Chinese authorities are concerned as its economy is growing more slowly than at any time in the last ten years. There was a time when Chinese products flooded the world market due to heavy demand. This declining demand has a direct correlation to production that in turn has pushed the Chinese economy towards recession."

-----  
CUBA/SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS  
-----

¶8. "AFTER 49 YEARS," editorial in April 18 nationalist Bengali daily ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA. "Democracy cannot be realized by issuing threats. Democracy will come naturally, and hurdles will need to be cleared to help Cuba. Obama may have realized this, something his predecessor did not... for he hopes communication will make Havana walk the path to democracy. Obama is to address Pan American leaders shortly, when he will certainly spell out his idea of better ties with Cuba. The road ahead is rocky, but Obama has made a good start on it. That shows Obama did not just make hollow promises in his election campaign."  
BURLEIGH